

promote our values in the very places where they are in greatest demand.

I have said it before but it bears repeating: aid is not a gift. The United States provides foreign assistance because it serves our interests. Helping countries become more democratic, more stable, more capable of defending themselves and better at pulling themselves out of poverty is just as important for us as it is for them. Our task therefore, is to make sure that we provide this assistance in the most efficient and effective way.

The Global Partnerships Act of 2012 is the first comprehensive proposal to adapt our laws to reflect the lessons we've learned over the past 50 years. Previous reform efforts in the early 1990s sought to revise and streamline our statutes and repeal Cold War barnacles, but they did not fundamentally alter the way that we plan, manage, and carry out assistance programs. I recognize that there is not enough time to consider and pass this legislation in what remains of the 112th Congress. However, I believe this legislation offers a valid and constructive starting point for the future, and that is why I am so pleased that my distinguished colleague and good friend from Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, is joining me in introducing the bill today. He is well-acquainted with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and acutely aware of the need for reform, and I am confident that he will take a leadership role in moving this process forward in the next Congress.

WE WON'T REALIZE HOW MUCH
WE MISS THE NEWS & MES-
SENGER UNTIL IT IS GONE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I share the pain of the many Prince William County residents and activists who are mourning the loss of the News & Messenger.

For the first time in 143 years, the Prince William community will no longer have a daily "newspaper of record" to document the births, deaths, and daily comings and goings of life in this vibrant county of nearly half-a-million people.

A community newspaper serves many roles for its readers. It is a necessary watchdog on local government. Its pages chronicle the triumphs and defeats of a community and its citizens. Its opinion pages reflect the varied views of county residents on issues of concern. It showcases the exploits of generations of high school athletes and awards bestowed on student scholars. And it provides a portal for local businesses to advertise their wares and services and local organizations to promote their activities.

No longer will the people of Prince William have a daily newspaper they can turn to and find out what happened at the previous night's Board of Supervisors, planning commission, or school board meetings. No longer will reporters localize the actions of the Congress or the White House so their readers understand how national policies and legislation will affect the county and its citizens. And no longer will proud parents be able to clip a story or photo about their child's game-winning goal, touch-

down, or homerun and paste it in a scrapbook for the next generation to enjoy.

The News & Messenger, and the Potomac News and the Manassas Journal Messenger before it, have served a vital role in Prince William County for generations. Over the decades, the paper's reporters and editors made it their business to become experts on their Prince William community, its government, and its characters. They've had the unique role of digging deep into the fabric of their community and reporting what they saw in an unfiltered manner and without interference.

Since Prince William voters elected me to Congress, I've had the pleasure of dealing with the News & Messenger and Potomac News reporters and editors on many issues, and the honor of winning the endorsement of the paper's editorial board. I can say, unequivocally, that the staff of the News and Messenger were professionals in every sense of the word and they've made lasting contributions to the community they have served.

To Keith Walker, Aleks Dolzenko, Kari Pugh, Kip Hanley, Amanda Stewart, and all of the other staff members, past and present, who gave life and breath to the News & Messenger, I say thank you for a job well done. I also wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

As the News & Messenger's 143-year run draws to a close, I join with Prince William residents in bidding farewell to this venerable publication. The newspaper will be missed, and most of us won't realize how much we miss it until it's gone.

IN HONOR OF MR. STEVE H.
TAYLOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Steve H. Taylor, the Director of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Steve, who is also a constituent and resident of Rocky River in Ohio's 10th Congressional District, is retiring on December 4, 2012.

Steve became Director of the Zoo in January, 1989. Immediately, he worked on and completed the popular RainForest in November 1992. Since then, the Zoo has opened several major new exhibits, including Wolf Wilderness and Australian Adventure. In addition, the Zoo renovated all its food and gift facilities, built the Reinberger Education Center, and opened the \$10 million Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine and the adjacent Rising Waters Safari Camp.

Steve has a passion for zoos and their conservation mission. He is active professionally and was on the Board of the Association of Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) between 1987 and 1993. He is an active member of the World Zoo and Aquarium Association. He has visited more than 210 of the 223 AZA accredited zoos and aquariums in North America, many of which were as chair of their accreditation visiting team. A California native, Steve was Director of the Sacramento Zoo, Children's Zoo Manager for the San Francisco Zoological Society, and Animal Keeper and Associate Curator at the Los Angeles Zoo before coming to Cleveland.

Since coming to Cleveland, Steve became a member of the Board of Directors of Positively Cleveland (formerly the Convention and Visitors Bureau) and is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland. Steve strongly believes in ecotourism as a way to help wildlife and wild places. Together with his wife Sarah, who is the Controller for the Cleveland Indians, he has led numerous ecotourism trips to Africa, Costa Rica, and Australia.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing Steve much success in his retirement and the next phases of his life and career.

REGARDING THE IMPACT THAT
SEQUESTRATION AND OTHER
BUDGET DECISIONS WOULD
HAVE ON CHILDREN AND THEIR
FAMILIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make my colleagues aware of a letter I was recently presented from Members-elect from California who are concerned about the impact of impending budget decisions on infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families in California and throughout the Nation. I commend our colleagues for this letter and I share their concerns.

The letter, signed by 11 Representatives-elect from California, led by Rep.-elect Julia Brownley with the support of First 5 LA highlights the impact of sequestration on children in California and urges Congress to "protect the youngest among us."

I join the Members-Elect in urging Congress to champion the needs of our most vulnerable population—our children—as we consider the pending decisions regarding the budget.

The full text of letter is copied below. Signers include Representatives-elect JULIA BROWNLEY (CA-26), SCOTT PETERS (CA-52), ALAN LOWENTHAL (CA-47), RAUL RUIZ (CA-36), MARK TAKANO (CA-41), JARED HUFFMAN (CA-02), AMI BERA (CA-07), TONY CARDENAS (CA-29), GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD (CA-35), JUAN VARGAS (CA-51), AND ERIC SWALWELL (CA-15).

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, November 28, 2012.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
U.S. SENATE.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: In January, we will take office in the 113th Congress. Joining many of you to work together to address the pressing issues facing our constituents and the nation. Today we write, in advance, to share our concern about the impact of sequestration and other budget decisions in the days ahead on infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families in California and throughout the nation.

According to the a report issued by Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations, allowing the automatic scheduled cuts to take effect the day before we enter into office would mean that 120,000 young children and their mothers in California will lose vital nutrition benefits through the WIC program and more than 11,900 Infants, toddlers and preschoolers in the state would be without Head Start services proven to alter their life trajectory and increase the chance that they